



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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Bapco 8 Hours of Bahrain 2021 **Michelin concludes the 2021 FIA WEC in style with victory in Bahrain**

- Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and José Maria Lopez (Nº7 Toyota GR010 Hybrid) claim the Hypercar Drivers' world title
- Alessandro Pier Guidi and James Calado secure the LM GTE Pro Drivers' world crown, with Ferrari clinching the Manufacturers' title
- Michelin's endurance racing tyres deliver once again in searing heat at the most abrasive track of the season

After last weekend's six-hour race at the Middle-East kingdom's Sakhir International Circuit, the ninth FIA World Endurance Championship concluded with the 8 Hours of Bahrain at the same venue.

Located in the middle of a desert, the track is both notoriously hard on tyres and exceptionally twisty. With the exception of the long main straight, the 5.412-kilometre circuit effectively features a mix of predominantly slow and medium turns (five left/ten right) and calls for repeated heavy braking and hard reacceleration out of the corners, which clearly add to the ordeal faced by tyres.

In comparison to last Saturday's fixture, not only did today's clash last two hours longer but it also started three hours later, running from 2pm until 10pm, rather than from 11am until 5pm – the hottest moment of the afternoon. Furthermore, given the shorter days at this time of year, this weekend's race included five hours of night-time action which further spiced up the battles for the Hypercar and LM GTE Pro Drivers' and Manufacturers' world titles which were all still up for grabs.

The other major influencing factors were, of course, the air and track temperatures which reached highs today of 33°C and 41°C respectively, compared 34°C and 45°C seven days previously.

"Our Hypercar partners had the same tyre options as last week, namely the Soft Hot Weather and Medium Hot Weather variants which again fulfilled their mission to perfection," reports **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programme. "Given that there were five hours of racing in the dark, we provided our LM GTE Pro and LM GTE Am partners with a choice between the Medium and Soft – instead of the Medium and Medium Hot Weather – in order to cover a possible sharp fall in the track temperature during the evening. This year, we didn't get a chance to lap so late in the evening during practice, so we weren't entirely sure of where we stood in this respect but, like last week, the majority of the teams went for the Medium which is a particularly versatile tyre."



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The 2021 8 Hours of Bahrain provided plenty of excitement and was won by the N°8 Toyota GR010 of Buemi/Nakajima/Hartley, ahead of its N°7 sister car (Conway/Kobayashi/Lopez) and the N°36 Alpine A480-Gibson (Lapierre/Negrão/Vaxivière).

The result settled the battle for the 2021 FIA World Endurance Championship Drivers' title in favour of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and José Maria Lopez, while Toyota Gazoo Racing sewed up the Manufacturers' crown last Saturday.

Today's LM GTE Pro fight was won by Alessandro Pier Guidi and James Calado (N°51 Ferrari 488 GTE Evo), ahead of Neel Jani/Kevin Estre/Michael Christensen (N°92 Porsche 911 RSR-19) and Daniel Serra/Daniel Molina (N°51 Ferrari 488 GTE Evo).

The class's Drivers' and Manufacturers' world titles consequently go to Alessandro Pier Guidi/James Calado and Ferrari

First in LM GTE Am was AF Corse's N°83 Ferrari 488 GTE Evo (Perrodo/Nielsen/Rovera), chased over the line by the Porsche 911 RSR-19s of Ried/Evans/Campbell (N°77, Dempsey-Proton Racing) and Perfetti/Cairolì/Pera (N°56, Team Project 1).

All these cars were equipped with Michelin endurance racing tyres.

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+33 (0) 1 45 66 22 22

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27 cours de l'Île Seguin, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France